

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:MASS, PINT, PINS, SHUM, RP, KS

SUBJECT: SENATE HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. ON JULY 23, SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS HELD HEARINGS ON "HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE" WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO KOREA AND PHILIPPINES. HEARINGS, CHAIRED BY SENATOR HUMPHREY AND ATTENDED BRIEFLY BY SENATOR CHASE, WAS HELD IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST BY SENATOR CRANSTON (NOT PRESENT). WITNESSES ON THE PHILIPPINES WERE ROBERT TRENT JONES, JR., GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT, AND PROFESSOR DAVID ROSENBURG OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE; AND ON KOREA, FATHER JAMES SINNOT;, EXILED VICAR GENERAL OF INCHON AND WILLIAM P. THOMPSON, PRESIDENT OF WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES (PRESBYTERIAN AND CONGREGATIONAL) AND GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST. HEARINGS CONSISTED MAINLY OF READING OF PREPARED TESTIMONY BY WITNESSES; QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WAS EXTREMELY BRIEF.

2. ON PHILIPPINES: MR. JONES GAVE SHORT HISTORY OF AQUINO CASE AND QUESTIONED, BUT DID NOT OPENLY PROTEST, GIVING OF AID TO MARCOS GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS IMPRISONED AQUINO WITHOUT TRIAL FOR THREE YEARS. ROSENBERG OUTLINED RESTRICTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER MARTIAL LAW AND OBSERVED THAT MARTIAL LAW IS NOT TEMPORARY PHENOMENA; HE STATED MARTIAL LAW HAS RESULTED IN INCREASING SPIRAL OF REPRESSION AND REBELLION AS THERE IS NO LONGER A SAFETY VALVE FOR DISSENT; AID TO MARCOS PERPETUATES MARCOS REGIME AND INSURES THAT WHEN CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT COMES IT WILL BE MORE VIOLENT. U.S. SHOULD NOT PROVIDE AID OR DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR MARCOS AND IN PARTICULAR SHOULD NOT SUPPLY ARMS FOR SUPPRESSION OF MUSLIMS. ROSENBERG TOOK EXCEPTION TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB'S STATEMENTS TO FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE THAT U.S. HAS AVOIDED INVOLVEMENT IN GOP EFFORTS TO CONTROL MUSLIM INSURGENCY AND THAT USG DOES NOT BELIEVE TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IS POLICY OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. ROSENBERG ALSO CHARGED THAT U.S. AID HAS HELPED FUND MARCOS GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES.

3. IN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, HUMPHREY POINTED OUT THAT IN U.S., FEDERAL FUNDS TO STATES CAN BE WITHDRAWN IF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OCCUR. HUMPHREY OBSERVED THAT SOME FEEL THAT PHILIPPINE PEOPLE ARE INDIFFERENT TO MARTIAL LAW AND WONDERED WHAT PRACTICAL EFFECT WOULD COME FROM STRONG UNEQUIVOCAL USG STATEMENT ON "ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS" IN THE PHILIPPINES. WHAT EFFECT WOULD THIS HAVE ON RETENTION OF CLARK AND SUBIC BASES "BECAUSE THIS IS THE REAL ISSUE HERE."

4. ON KOREA: FATHER SINNOTT OUTLINED HIS EXPERIENCES WITH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN KOREA STATING HIS DISMAY WITH U.S. POLICY ON THIS QUESTION AND SUGGESTING CONGRESS SHOULD PUT MORE CONDITIONS ON U.S. MILITARY AID TO KOREA. HE STATED USG GIVES UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT PARK AND EXPRESSED FEAR THAT ROKG MIGHT EXECUTE KIM CHI-HA. DISCUSSING HIS RELATIONS WITH U.S. EMBASSY IN SEOUL,
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SINNOTT SAID HE HAD REPORTED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS TO EMBASSY. HOWEVER, THE ONLY RESPONSE HE RECEIVED WAS TO BE PLACED ON LIST OF "PEOPLE TO TRY AND KEEP A BIT UNDER CONTROL....THE THEN AMBASSADOR (HABIB) HAS BEEN QUOTED AS CALLING US DISSIDENTS." GROUP OF 90 U.S. MISSIONARIES REQUESTED MEETING WITH A MEMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL PARTY LAST NOVEMBER AND ONLY RECEIVED A FAVORABLE RESPONSE AFTER CALLING A PRESS CONFERENCE "TO COMPLAIN THAT OUR REQUEST HAD BEEN IGNORED." (COPY OF STATEMENT POUCHED.) AT THE END OF FATHER SINNOTT'S STATEMENT, HUMPHREY INFORMED HIM THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF "THIS COMMITTEE MAKES FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO KOREA-" HOWEVER, HUMPHREY WARNED THAT

NOTHING BEING SAID IN HIS COMMITTEE SHOULD BE TAKEN AS EVIDENCE THAT U.S. IS NOT A GOOD ALLY OF KOREA BUT THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN KOREA IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

5. TESTIMONY OF DR. THOMPSON WAS IDENTICAL TO HIS .

JUNE 10 STATEMENT BEFORE CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S SUBCOMMITTEE (STATE 136283).

6. AT END OF THOMPSON TESTIMONY, HUMPHREY CALLED ATTENTION TO THOMPSON'S EXCELLENT REPUTATION AND COMMENDED HIM FOR "VERY POWERFUL STATEMENT WITH FORCEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS" WHICH COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER CAREFULLY. COMMITTEE IS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMPHREY SAID, AND HAS ALREADY GIVEN THOUGHT TO SOME SORT OF SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTION.

7. ON JULY 24 SINNOTT AND NINE OTHERS HELD PEACEFUL 45 MINUTE PRAYER VIGIL NEAR KOREAN EMBASSY.

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